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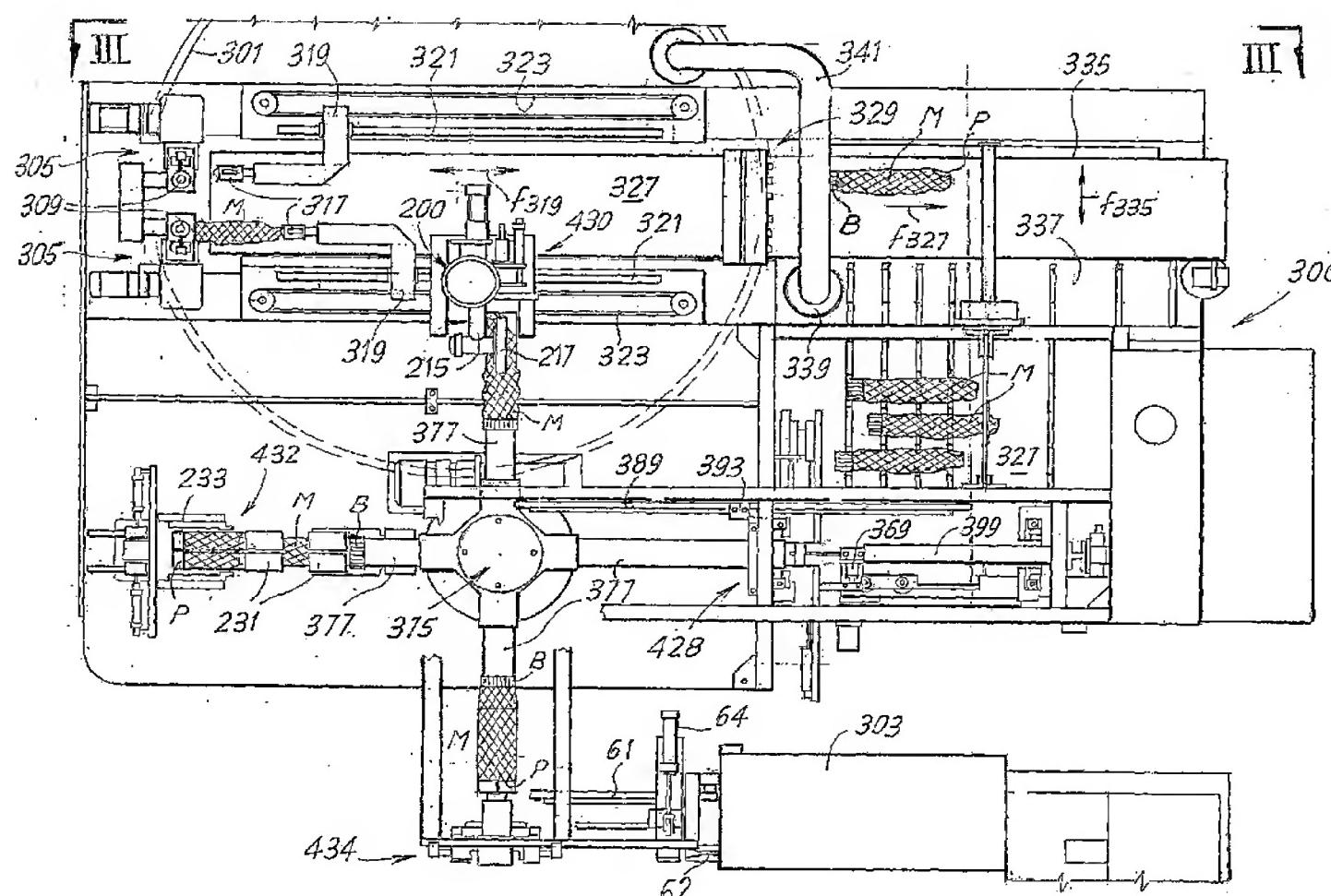
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Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MACHINE FOR HANDLING TUBULAR KNITTED ARTICLES, SUCH AS SOCKS OR THE LIKE



(57) Abstract: The machine comprises: at least one tubular member (377) to transport the articles (M); a container (301) in which said articles are placed in bulk; pick-up members (305) to pick up individual articles from said container; a feed path of the articles; detection means (329) to identify the orientation of the articles along said path; a stretching device to stretch open an end of an article and load said article onto said tubular member. Also provided are members (341) to discard articles oriented with the first end farther forward than the second end with respect to the direction of feed of the article along said path, and to feed toward said stretching device articles oriented with the second end farther forward than the first end with respect to said direction of feed.

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